

given annually to three separate age groups: kindergarten students, seventh-grade students, and high school students.

Bing was a longtime member of the Rotary Club of San Bernardino-North, and a founding board member of both the American Security Bank and the Gom-Benn Village Society.

He has received numerous awards for his contributions to the San Bernardino community, including an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Cal State San Bernardino. The Norman F. Feldheim Library board of directors named a lecture hall after Bing in 1985, and an elementary school under construction in San Bernardino was named after him this year.

Bing is survived by his wife of 76 years, Ting Wong; his three daughters Nanci Wong, Janice Lee, and Josephine Wong; nine grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

Let us take the time to pay tribute to this wonderful man. Let us celebrate the life he lived and the example he led.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with his family at this time.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEBRA SILLIK

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Debra Sillik, President of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada, for giving a voice to minority small businesses.

Debra Sillik began her journey as President of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada just 7 months ago. Over this time, she has made a major impact. Debra has helped give the 9,556 American Indians and Alaska Natives a voice in Nevada. She has provided them with employment and educational opportunities. American Indian businesses have grown 56 percent in the Nevada area. In 1997 when this organization started, they only had 1,231 businesses where as of 2002, they have 1,915 American Indian and Alaska Native-owned businesses. She also began offering education workshops as well as scholarship opportunities. Debra holds monthly networking meetings, educational luncheons, job fairs, and awards banquet, and a Native American trade show. Debra has worked hard to put together a board and has increased the number of members participating. Debra's most recent achievement includes being honored as the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year. Through her dedication and service, she has helped create business opportunities for the Native American population in Nevada.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Debra Sillik for her dedication to helping American Indians thrive in Nevada. I congratulate her for her recent recognition by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration and wish her the continued success.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PRIVATE IMMIGRATION RELIEF LEGISLATION OF 2007

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a private immigration relief bill for several Chicagoans who remain in daily jeopardy because they seek a path to citizenship in the United States.

Over the past few years, I have met with several residents in my community and heard detailed accounts of abuse by the Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

I was told stories of children being ripped from the arms of their parents by immigration enforcement officers toting machine guns and aiming their weapons at family members.

I was told stories of mothers who had lived in the United States for years, bore children, paid taxes and owned homes—but still faced deportation because they hadn't met all the standards required for citizenship in our country.

There were numerous stories of immigrants who were being sponsored by their sick and ailing family members—mothers, husbands, children and babies; who were thrown off the path towards citizenship because of tragic illnesses resulting in death.

Madam Speaker, we all understand the debate on illegal immigration strikes considerable emotion and debate; however, my legislation today is in support of average people who were trying to do the right thing.

Every name on this private bill: Elvira Arellano, Juan Carlos Arreguin, Martin Guerrero Barrios, Maria I. Benitez, Francisco J. Castro, Jaime Cruz, Martha Dávalos, Herminio Dávalos, Adan Disifredo Delvalle, Angel Espinosa, Verónica Lopez, Francisca Lino, Maria A. Martin, Juan Jose Mesa, Maria Natividad Loza, Blanca E. Nolte, Domenico Papaanni, Romina Perea, Juan Jose Rangel, Sr., Dayron S. Rios Arenas, Araceli Zepeda, Doris Oneida Ulloa and Bladimir I. Caballero, Arnulfo Alfaro, Consuelo and Juan Manuel Castellanos, Eliseo Pulido, Gilberto Romero, Maria Liliana Rua-Saenz, Tomas F. Martinez-Garcia, Flor Crisostomo; Fatuma Karuma, Stanislaw Rychtarczyk, Slobodan Radanovich, Agustin Sanchez-Dominguez, are victims of circumstance.

They all want a chance to stay with their families in the United States, make an honest living and pursue the American dream. I call on my colleagues to support this legislation and the immediate consideration of immigrant visas, adjustments of status for permanent residence, and practical paths towards citizenship for the above immigrants.

#### INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATIC IRA BILL

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer bipartisan legislation to create

additional savings opportunities for workers who do not have access to qualified retirement plans through their employers. I am pleased to be joined by Rep. PHIL ENGLISH in offering "The Automatic IRA Act of 2007," along with several other cosponsors, which will increase retirement savings for millions of workers.

Over the years, Congress has improved incentives for employer-based retirement and pension plans by providing more flexibility, increasing the limits, and lessening the administrative burdens. Still, about one in four employees who have access to these successful retirement vehicles do not take advantage of them.

What is a much more difficult group to reach, though, are the estimated 75 million workers who do not have access to these employer-based plans. That is why today we are filing legislation to create automatic payroll deposit Individual Retirement Accounts, or IRA's, for workers who do not have access to employer-provided qualified pension plans. Our bill would require employers to automatically enroll employees in an "auto IRA" unless the employee opts out. These are "set it and forget it" payroll deposit accounts. The non-partisan Retirement Security Project has estimated that this proposal could raise net national savings by nearly \$8 billion annually.

We are, of course, sensitive to any increased burden on small businesses, so the bill provides for a temporary tax credit for employers with less than 100 employees in order to offset the upfront administrative cost of establishing this program. Only employers with at least 10 employees, which have been in business for at least two years, would be covered by the bill. Further, the bill does not mandate any matching contributions by employers or any fiduciary responsibility for the management of the accounts. It is our sincere hope that once employers start participating, they will decide to convert these arrangements to the broader 401(k) plans. The IRA contribution limits are much lower than the 401(k) limits, so business owners may see incentives to switch to the bigger plans.

Employers have the option of choosing a private sector manager for the auto IRA's, but allowing each employee the right to transfer, or simply allowing the employee to designate the provider at the outset. As a default, an option similar to the successful and popular Thrift Savings Program would be established.

The automatic enrollment feature is not new. It builds upon the success of 401(k) auto enrollment, promoted by the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Many of the workers who will benefit from our bill will likely be moderate to lower-income workers. The proposal, which was jointly developed by Brookings Institution and Heritage Foundation scholars, has garnered widespread support, including AARP and the Minority Business Roundtable, and has been endorsed in New York Times editorials and by the Washington Times' lead political correspondent.

Of the 75 million American workers who have no access to an employer plan, over 40 million work for employers of at least 10 employees. And, only 10% of these workers actually seek out their own IRA's or other retirement savings vehicles. The auto IRA bill that we are proposing will reach this critical group of workers and hopefully help them start on the road to retirement security. We urge our